

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 MMO-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PRS-01 PA-01 L-03 H-01

HEW-04 /096 W

-----101806Z 125465 /46

R 101428Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1989

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

MONTERREY FOR APHIS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN, EPAP, NU, XK

SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN MEASURES TO COMBAT COFFEE RUST

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 8518 (NOTAL, (B) 76 MANAGUA 5559 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AGRMIN SENGLMANN FACES A NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK IN

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SEEKING TO ERADICATE COFFEE RUST OUTBREAK WHICH THREATENS IMPORTANT
EXPORT CROP OF NICARAGUA AND OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. HE
FACES CRITICISMS THAT HIS MEASURES ARE EITHER TOO TOUGH OR NOT
TOUGH ENOUGH AND REALIZES THAT THE ONLY THING EXPERTS AGREE ON IS
THAT NO MEASURES CAN BE GUARANTEED TO BE COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL
IN ELIMINATING THIS BLIGHT. HE CONTINUE TO ENJOY FULL GON SUPPORT
AND IS DEALING WITH THE SITUATION AS BEST HE CAN. HE HAS NOT

HESITATED TO JAIL THOSE VIOLATING THE QUARANTINE HE HAS PLACED AROUND INFESTED AREAS. HE CONTINUES TO SEEK BEST ADVICE AVAILABLE AND PLANS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR THOSE GROWERS WHOSE TREES MUST BE DESTROYED AND TO DEVELOP PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO CONTROL THE DISEASE. ON THE WHOLE, EMBASSY BELIEVES SENGELMANN HANDLING PROBLEM IN COMPETENT, DEDICATED AND ENLIGHTENED FASHION. END SUMMARY.

1. AGRMIN KLAUS SENGELMANN CALLED AT EMBASSY JANUARY 5 TO DISCUSS COFFEE RUST PROBLEM. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) GON TAKES MOST SERIOUS VIEW OF OUTBREAK OF ROYA (COFFEE RUST) AND IS SEEKING TO COPE WITH PROBLEM AS BEST IT CAN. IT IS APPLYING PROCEDURES FOR COMBATING ROYA WHICH WERE OUTLINED IN (DATE NOT SPECIFIED) COSTA RICAN SEMINAR. TEAM OF TOP COLOMBIAN EXPERTS IN COMBATING ROYA ADVISED GON ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COSTA RICAN SYSTEM AND FELT NICARAGUAN MEASURES FULLY ADEQUATE. (DR. MUSSMAN, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF USDA'S APHIS, WHO ATTENDED DECEMBER MEETING OF CIRSA IN MANAGUA, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT HE FELT COLOMBIAN TEAM SEEMED FIRST-RATE AND THAT HE HOPED OTHER CACM COUNTRIES WOULD COOPERATE WITH FON'S VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO COMBAT ROYA.)

(B) GON DESIROUS OF GETTING OPINIONS OF AS MANY EXPERTS IN COMBATING ROYA AS POSSIBLE, RECOGNIZING THAT EXPERTS SELDOM AGREE ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE. AMONG EXPERTS BEING BROUGHT IN ARE DR. DOROTHY SHOW WHO COMING FROM AUSTRALIA, SUPERVISED SUCCESSFUL ERAFICATION PROGRAM IN NEW GUINEA. SENGELMANN ALSO SEEKING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AN AMERICAN COFFEE EXPERT, DR. FREDERICK WELLMAN OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN COFFEE.

(C) SENGELMANN SUBJECT TO HEAVY CRITICISM FROM SOME COFFEE GROWERS WHO COMPLAIN THAT ANTI-ROYA MEASURES ARE TOO RADICAL AND FROM OTHERS WHO SAY MEASURES ARE TOO CONSERVATIVE. IDEALLY, SENGELMANN WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE OFF ENTIRE INFESTED AREA IN CARAZO DEPARTMENT, BUT REALIZES THIS NOT PROACTICAL SINCE MANY GROWERS WOULD STILL SEEK TO SEND PICKERS INTO INFESTED AREAS TO HARVEST HIGH-PRICED CROP. HENCE, HAS AGREED TO PERMIT HARVESTING FROM SOME INFESTED AREAS WITH UTMOST PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT ROY'S SPREAD. ALL VEGETATIVE MATTER FROM CARAZO AREA QUARANTINED EXCEPT BAGGED COFFEE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO PACIFIC POST, THUS MINIMIZING DANGER OF SPREAD TO NICARAGUA'S MAIN COFFEE AREAS IN NORTH.

(D) SENGELMANN HAS IN MIND PLAN TO COMPENSATE THOSE GROWERS WHOSE COFFEE TREES MUST BE CUT BACK (EVERY TREE WITHIN 30 FEET OF AN INFESTED TREE IS CUT BACK WITHIN 50 CM OF GROUND), BUT IS ANXIOUS THAT COMPENSATION PROGRAM NOT REDUCE GROWERS' INCENTIVE

TO COMBAT ROYA. HE HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED HIS COMPENSATION PLAN WHICH, HE HOPES WILL ENCOURAGE ALL CONCERNED TO FIGHT THE BLIGHT. MONEY FOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM TO COME FROM NEW \$5 TAX ON EACH BAG OF EXPORTED COFFEE, ANNOUNCED IN LATE DECEMBER. MOST OF REVENUE FROM THIS TAX WILL GO TO COVER ERADICATION COSTS HOWEVER.

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 HEW-04 MMO-01 AID-05
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TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01
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(E) SOME 200 MANZANAS OF COFFEE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED AND 800 MORE PRESENTLY FACE DESTRUCTION. GON HAS HAD TO ARREST A NUMBER OF QUARANTINE VIOLATORS, INCLUDING " A FEW BIG COFFEE GROWERS," BUT HAS NOT PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED THE ARRESTEES TO AVOID EMBARRASSING SOME PROMINENT FAMILIES. SENGELMANN IS CONFIDENT THAT WORD WILL CIRCULATE THAT GON SERIOUS ABOUT QUARANTINE.

(F) SENGELMANN ALSO SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT DISGRUNTLED SUPPORTERS FO FSLN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT MIGHT DELIBERATELY SPREAD ROYA TO OTHER AREAS OF COUNTRY.

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(G) SENGELMANN PLANS TO LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, WITH AID OF OUTSIDE FIRMS, TO EXPLAIN TO PUBLIC WHAT ROYA IS, WHAT IT CAN DO AND HOW TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT AGAINST IT. HE HOPES THE CAMPAIGN WILL CONVINCE NICARAGUANS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR EVERYONE TO COOPERATE IN ERADICATING A BLIGHT WHOSE SPREAD COULD SERIOUSLY HARM THE NATION'S ECONOMY, AND THAT THOSE WHO SEEK TO HIDE ROYA OUTBREAKS OR VIOLATE THE QUARANTINE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS OUTLAWS.

2. SENGELMANN'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE ROYA ARE FURTHER COMPLICATED IN THAT THE LOCAL STRAIN OF THE PLANT DISEASE HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED. MEANWHILE, THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA HAS BEGUN CARRYING ARTICLES CRITICAL OF ERADICATION MEASURES. ONE ARTICLE COMPLAINS THAT THOSE APPLYING THE HERBICIDES AND FUNGICIDES ARE NOT PROPERLY TRAINED AND THAT MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED OWING TO EXPOSURE TO TOXIC MATERIALS. ANOTHER SAYS THE BRAZILIANS, NOT THE COLOMBIANS, SHOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN.

3. OVERALL, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT SENGELMANN AND HIS PEOPLE ARE DOING BEST THEY CAN IN EXASPERATING SITUATION IN WHICH NO ERADICATION MEASURE CAN BE QUARANTEED 100 PERCENT SUCCESSFUL AND WHERE AIR-BORNE SPORES COULD CARRY ROYA ALMOST ANYWHERE. THIS POST HAS MEANWHILE PUT SENGELMANN IN CONTACT WITH DR. WELLMAN WHO SEEMS ANXIOUS TO HELP IF HE CAN.
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Message Attributes

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